

DEPARTMENT OF STATE - OFFICE
 SECRET
 FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH
 FROM: ATHENS
 TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON
 REF: 667.81
 DATE: June 10, 1954
 EXCISE
 EUR INDEX
 767.00/6-1054
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 ACTION DEPT.
 For Dept. 17
 Use Only 6/18
 REF ID: A66781
 OTHER: 0
 SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: Information on Albania

Report of Shehu-Pijade Meeting

Mr. Christopoulos, Director of the First Political Division of the Foreign Ministry, informed an Embassy officer on June 9 that he had received a report from a "foreign source" to the effect that Vice Premier Shehu and Mose Pijade had had two meetings last March near the Albanian-Yugoslav frontier. He asked if the Embassy could confirm this report.

Diplomatic Relations with Albania

Mr. Christopoulos stated that the Greek Government had no present intention of reestablishing diplomatic relations with Albania. He recalled that the original Albanian proposal was for the appointment of a commission to mark the boundary, the first step taken by the Bulgarians when they sought to improve their relations with Greece. The Greek reply was that the General Staffs of the two countries should discuss the matter as Greece was still technically at war with Albania. No official reply has been received from the Albanians.

If the Albanians should now proceed to suggest the reestablishment of diplomatic relations, the Greek Government might find it difficult to refuse. The "state of war" argument could not be used in this case as Greece maintains relations with Germany despite the fact that no peace treaty with that country has been signed. There were actually two advantages which Mr. Christopoulos could see in restoring relations: The first of these was that

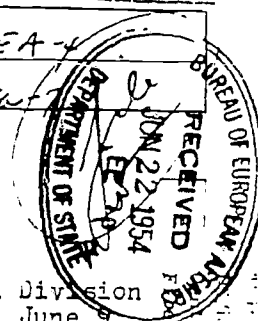
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the presence of a Greek Ambassador in Tirana would tend to reassure the Albanians as to the lack of any intention on the part of the Greeks to use forceful means to pursue their territorial claims. Second, the appointment of an Ambassador would put a formal stamp on the Greek recognition that Albania is now an independent state and would in turn have a reassuring effect.

For the Ambassador


Alexander Schnee
First Secretary of Embassy

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